

7011

**By-Laws
Decatur County Democratic Executive Committee**

**Article I.
Name**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Decatur County Democratic Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "Committee."

**Article II.
Authority**

Section 1. Organized and established under authority of the State of Tennessee – Private Acts, 1957; Chapter 335; House Bill #961 and as amended by Chapter 232; House Bill #1588; Private Acts 1970.

**Article III.
Objective**

Section 1. The objective of this Committee shall be to promote the ideals and principles of this Democratic Party and to assist in the election of Democratic nominees.

**Article IV.
Membership**

Section 1. This organization shall be composed of members chosen according to the laws of the State of Tennessee; Private Acts, 1957, Chapter 335 and as amended; Private Acts 1970 Chapter 232. (See appendix.)

Section 2. Members are elected for a term of Four years

Section 3. Notice of all persons elected to this Committee shall be forwarded to the Tennessee Democratic Party within ten days of an election.

Section 4. Any member who is unable to attend a meeting of this Committee, for any reason, shall notify the chair, secretary, or a fellow Committee person, of his/her inability to attend prior to the scheduled meeting. As the first order of business, the Committee shall determine whether there have been excessive absences of any members to have vacancies declared. Should vacancies be declared, the Committee shall at the next scheduled meeting fill vacancies by appointments of a Democrat(s) residing in the District where the vacancy(ies) exist to fill the unexpired term(s). In the event no person can be found in the said District, the Committee may fill the position(s) by a person or

persons at large from Decatur County who shall serve until the next county election of Committee members.

Article V Officers

Section 1. Officers of the Committee shall be a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. Election of officers will be by a simple majority vote of the Committee. In the event a majority is not achieved, a runoff election will be held with the low vote-getters being dropped from the next ballot. In the event of a tie, the balance of the Committee who are not candidates will vote to break the tie.

Section 3. Officers shall be elected in October every four years at a well publicized meeting of the Committee called for the purpose of electing officers. Notice of all persons elected to office shall be forwarded to the Tennessee Democratic Party within ten days of an election.

Section 4. The term of office shall be Four years or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Vacancies shall be filled by the Committee at its next regular meeting.

Article VI Duties of Officers

Section 1. The Chair shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Committee. He shall preside at all meetings of the Committee; he shall have general and active management of the business of the Committee and shall exercise general supervision and administration over all of its affairs. He shall have the power to make all contracts in the course of regular and ordinary business. He shall see that all orders and resolutions of the committee are carried into effect. An outgoing Chair shall be required to immediately transfer all books, records, and property of the Committee to the newly elected Chair or Committee.

Section 2. The Vice-Chair shall, in the absence or disability of the Chair, perform all of the duties and exercise all of the powers of the Chair and shall perform such other duties as the Committee shall prescribe. He shall be bound by all the regulations as set out for the Chair.

Section 3. The Secretary shall attend all sessions of the Committee and keep all

records of Committee meetings, elections and events pertaining thereto. Records will be kept of meeting attendance, minutes of business, treasurer's report and all other business of the Committee. All of the above shall be compiled in a Committee Book designated for that purpose. He/she shall give or cause to be given all notices as required herein and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Committee or Chair under whose supervision he/she shall be. He/she shall be bound by all regulations as set out for the Chair.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall have custody of Committee funds and securities, and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Committee. All monies and other valuables shall be deposited in the name and to the credit of the Committee in depositories subject to check or withdrawal as may be designated by the Committee. He/she shall be bound by all regulations as set out for the Chair.

Article VII Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held four times a year, in January, April, July, and October, or when called by the Chair. Special meetings shall be called upon a petition signed by at least five members of said Committee.

Section 2. Written notices of all meetings shall be mailed to each member at such address as appears on the records of the Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Neither proxies nor voting by the unit rule shall be allowed at any meeting of the Committee.

Section 4. A majority of the Committee at a meeting duly assembled shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of a majority of the Committee present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Committee.

Article VIII Power and Responsibility

Section 1. The Committee shall be the general governing and controlling body for the management of the affairs of the Democratic Party within the said county and shall be vested with all the powers and one rated with all the duties now prescribed by law for such Democratic Executive Committees.

Section 2. Members shall constitute the voting membership of the Decatur County Democratic Party. Each member shall support nominees of the Democratic Party.

Section 3. The Committee shall plan and conduct all county meetings and conventions. Records shall be kept of all party business.

Section 4. The Committee members shall elect the allotted delegates to state conventions.

Section 5. The Committee members shall select the Democratic nominees for all county-wide offices in conformity with these By-Laws.

Article IX Selection of Democratic Nominees

Democratic nominees for all county-wide public offices will be selected by the Committee at a properly scheduled and well publicized meeting called for that purpose. A majority vote of the Committee shall be required for any candidate to be selected as the Democratic nominee. If a single candidate for public office does not received a majority vote of the Committee, then there shall be no Democratic nominee for that public office. If there are multiple candidates and a majority vote is not achieved, a run-off election will be held with the low vote getter being dropped from the next ballot. If none of the candidates can achieve a majority vote of the Committee, then there shall be no Democratic nominee for that office. In the event of a tie, the standing Committee of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary will vote to break the tie.

Article X Notice

Section 1. Whenever under these By-Laws notice is required to be given to any member, officers, or to others, it shall not be construed to mean personal notice; but such notice must be given in writing, by mail, by depositing the same in a Post Office letter box in a post paid sealed wrapper addressed to such member at such address as appears on the books of the Committee and such notice shall be deemed to be given at the time when the same shall be thus mailed. Any member may waive any notice required to be given under these By-Laws.

Article XI Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any special rules of order which may be adopted or the Laws of the State of Tennessee.

Article XII Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee at a properly called and scheduled meeting designated for the purpose of amending these By-Laws.

Article XIII Severability

Section 1. In the event any provisions of these By-Laws shall be deemed inconsistent with State of Tennessee Private Acts of 1957 Chapter 335 and as amended Private Acts 1970 Chapter 232 or The Tennessee State Democratic Party Rules/By-Laws, then the said Private Acts or State Democratic Party Rules/By-Laws shall apply.

Section 2. If any provision of these By-Laws is held invalid, all valid provisions that are severable from the invalid provisions shall remain in effect.

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